CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 8, 12-21, 31, 32, 35 and 45-56 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 22, 29, 33, 36 and 39-44 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for integrating point of sale (POS) data with electronic article surveillance (EAS) data, comprising:

providing a general purpose computer operable to receive and process data;

receiving POS data at the general purpose computer;

receiving an alarm event at an EAS device, the alarm event corresponding to an activated EAS tag:

obtaining alarm event information inputted into an alarm event logging unit by an user;

generating EAS data based upon the alarm event and the inputted alarm event information;

receiving the EAS data at the general purpose computer; and

processing the POS data with the EAS data at the general purpose computer.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the general-purpose computer includes a vending database for storing vending data and the method further comprises storing the POS data as a first portion of the vending data in the vending database.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising storing the EAS data as a second portion of the vending data in the vending database.

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4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising selecting a subset portion of the vending data comprising selected data from the POS data and the EAS data in accordance with a predetermined selection criterion.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising reporting the selected subset portion of the vending data in a predetermined format.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the selected subset portion of the vending data is reported to a reporting device, and the selected subset portion provides system health information.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the POS data comprises merchandise data.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7 [[8]], wherein the merchandise data is associated with an article of merchandise, and the method further comprises:

electronically identifying the merchandise data associated with the article of merchandise; and

providing the merchandise data to the general purpose computer.

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10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein electronically identifying the merchandise data includes scanning the article of merchandise in conjunction with a sale of the article of merchandise.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising deactivating an EAS tag associated with the article of merchandise, wherein the POS data includes deactivation data based on deactivating the EAS tag.

Claims 12-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A system for integrating point of sale (POS) data and electronic article surveillance (EAS) data, the system comprising:

a vending database operable to store the POS data and the EAS data; ~~and~~

a general purpose computer in operative communication with the vending database, the general purpose computer being operable to receive and process the POS data and the EAS data;

an EAS device operable to receive an alarm event corresponding to an activated EAS tag, the EAS device including an alarm event logging unit (ALU) having a security management program and a memory for storing the security management program, wherein

the security management program is operable

to receive the alarm event,

to obtain alarm event information inputted by an user into the ALU, and

to generate the EAS data based upon the alarm event and the alarm event information.

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23. (Original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the POS data is stored as a POS portion of vending data.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the EAS data is stored as an EAS portion of vending data.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 24, wherein the POS data is stored as a POS portion of the vending data.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 25, wherein the general purpose computer is operable to select a subset portion of the vending data from the vending database in accordance with a predetermined selection criterion, the subset portion comprising data from the POS portion and the EAS portion.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 22, further comprising a POS device capable of use in connection with sales, the POS device being operable to obtain product information about an article of merchandise.

28. (Original) The system of Claim 27, wherein the POS device is further operable to deactivate an EAS tag associated with the article of merchandise.

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29. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ system ~~of Claim 28~~ <u>for integrating point of sale (POS)</u>

<u>data and electronic article surveillance (EAS) data, the system comprising:</u>

<u>a vending database operable to store the POS data and the EAS data;</u>

<u>a general purpose computer in operative communication with the vending database, the</u>

<u>general purpose computer being operable to receive and process the POS data and the EAS data;</u>

<u>and</u>

<u>a POS device capable of use in connection with sales, the POS device being operable to</u>

<u>obtain product information about an article of merchandise,</u> wherein the POS device is further

operable to <u>deactivate an EAS tag associated with the article of merchandise and to</u> obtain EAS

tag information upon deactivation of the EAS tag.

30. (Original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the POS device is further operable to

generate the POS data, based on the product information and the EAS tag information.

Claims 31-32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim <u>22</u> [[31]], further comprising a detector

for detecting a signal from the activated EAS tag and generating the alarm event.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the EAS device is operable to control

the detector.

Claim 35 (Cancelled)

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36. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[35]], wherein the alarm event information comprises at least one of responder information, salesperson identification, receipt identification, location identification, POS identification, product information, a public relations code and a reason code.

37. (Original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the public relations code is based on a user-defined public relations code identifier.

38. (Original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the reason code is selected from the group of reasons comprising failure to deactivate, failure to remove, recovery, related to last alarm, runaway, stock movement, system test, EAS tags in area, unexplained, unattended, incoming item, other, and at least one user-defined reason code.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[35]], wherein the ALU further comprises a keypad for inputting the alarm event information.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[35]], wherein the ALU further comprises a scanner for inputting the alarm event information.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[35]], wherein the security management program comprises a user-programmable interface.

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42. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[31]], wherein the EAS device is connected to the general purpose computer through a wireless network.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[31]], wherein the EAS device is connected to the general purpose computer through a wired network.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22 [[31]], further comprising a reporting module operable to provide EAS system diagnostics based on the EAS data.

Claims 45-56 (Cancelled)

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